

# CALIFORNIA VOTING SYSTEMS

## HOW DIFFERENT TYPES OF VOTING SYSTEMS WORK

The Secretary of State certifies voting systems for use. Each county then chooses which certified system they want to use.

There are currently three different types of voting systems used in California elections.

### Optical Scan

This is a system similar to the standardized tests given in school. To cast a ballot, the voter:

- Signs in at the polls and receives a paper ballot along with an approved marking device.
- Marks the appropriate position on the ballot. The names of the candidates may be printed on the actual ballot or on a sheet alongside the ballot. After making his or her selections, reviews the ballot and then places the ballot in a secrecy envelope or folder.
- Returns his or her ballot to the poll worker. The ballot is then counted by an optical scanning machine, either at the polling place or at a central location.

### Touchscreen/DRE

Touchscreen, or direct recording electronic, systems are the newest type of voting systems in California. Rather than marking a piece of paper, the voter casts his or her ballot electronically.

To cast a ballot, the voter:

- Signs in at the polls.
- Either individually or with the aid of a poll worker activates the machine.
- Marks the ballot by touching a screen or using a keyboard style interface.
- After making his or her selections, a review screen will appear allowing them to verify his or her choices.
- Casts his or her ballot.

### Datavote

Datavote is a punch card voting system, but differs in at least two ways from “chad” producing punch card systems. First, the names of the candidates are printed on the ballots. Second, the system uses a lever punch to prevent chads.

To cast a ballot, the voter:

- Signs in at the polls and receives a paper ballot.
- Inserts the ballot into the tray and under the clear plastic cover from the left side of machine.
- Marks the ballot by moving the punch lever next to each of his or her selections and completely depresses the lever to punch out a cross (+).
- After making his or her selections, reviews the ballot and then places the ballot in a secrecy envelope.
- Returns his or her ballot to the poll worker.

### SECURITY MEASURES FOR TOUCHSCREEN/DRE VOTING SYSTEMS

In response to concerns about the security of touchscreen/DRE voting systems, the Secretary of State’s office has required these systems to meet 23 additional security measures before these systems can be used in the November election.

These additional security measures require:

- That every voter be given the option of casting a paper ballot. If you would prefer to use a paper ballot instead of a touchscreen/DRE, you may request one when you sign in at the polls.
- That the system’s source code must be made available for analysis by independent experts.
- That no telephone, wireless, or Internet connections are permitted on the machines.
- That the county engage in a comprehensive poll worker training program.

You can get more information about these security measures on the Internet at [www.MyVoteCounts.org](http://www.MyVoteCounts.org) or by calling 1-800-345-VOTE.

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## VOTING SYSTEMS USED BY COUNTY

County	Type of System	County	Type of System
Alameda	Touchscreen/DRE	Orange	DRE
Alpine	Datavote	Placer	Optical Scan
Amador	Optical Scan	Plumas	Touchscreen/DRE
Butte	Optical Scan	Riverside	Touchscreen/DRE
Calaveras	Datavote	Sacramento	Optical Scan
Colusa	Optical Scan	San Benito	Datavote
Contra Costa	Optical Scan	San Bernardino	Touchscreen/DRE
Del Norte	Datavote	San Diego	Optical Scan
El Dorado	Datavote	San Francisco	Optical Scan
Fresno	Optical Scan	San Joaquin	Optical Scan
Glenn	Datavote	San Luis Obispo	Optical Scan
Humboldt	Optical Scan	San Mateo	Optical Scan
Imperial	Datavote	Santa Barbara	Optical Scan
Inyo	Datavote	Santa Clara	Touchscreen/DRE
Kern	Optical Scan	Santa Cruz	Optical Scan
Kings	Optical Scan	Shasta	Touchscreen/DRE
Lake	Optical Scan	Sierra	Datavote
Lassen	Optical Scan	Siskiyou	Optical Scan
Los Angeles	Optical Scan	Solano	Optical Scan
Madera	Optical Scan	Sonoma	Optical Scan
Marin	Optical Scan	Stanislaus	Optical Scan
Mariposa	Optical Scan	Sutter	Optical Scan
Mendocino	Optical Scan	Tehama	Touchscreen/DRE
Merced	Touchscreen/DRE	Trinity	Optical Scan
Modoc	Optical Scan	Tulare	Optical Scan
Mono	Optical Scan	Tuolumne	Optical Scan
Monterey	Optical Scan	Ventura	Datavote
Napa	Touchscreen/DRE	Yolo	Datavote
Nevada	Optical Scan	Yuba	Datavote

### MORE INFORMATION ON VOTING SYSTEMS

These are the voting systems used at polling places. A different voting system may be used for absentee voting.

Counties using touchscreen/DRE systems are required to have paper ballots available upon request. You can get more information about how to use the specific voting system used in your county on the Internet at [www.MyVoteCounts.org](http://www.MyVoteCounts.org), or by calling 1-800-345-VOTE or from your local county elections official.